

Graham2020 Update

February 9, 2018

As we pass the mid-point of the year 2 with our strategic plan, Graham2020, we have much work to be proud of, and challenges we plan to overcome together. Here are some of the highlights:

Vision: *Success Today, Prepared for Tomorrow* has become part of our agendas and branding. Staff are working the mantra into our common language. Some of our community partners know and repeat the vision statement.

Mission: GLS has built and officially recognized formal community partnerships created last year with new partner signs in public areas, recognition of partners by state and federal officials, and through new student experiences. Our partners have gathered at 3 community partner retreats to create a strategic plan for the county that Graham leaders facilitate.

Career Gears has been lauded at the state and federal level, and noticed by AASA, ODE, and the U.S. Dept. Of Education. Several site visits by organizations and school districts have put our teachers and schools in the spotlight for innovation. We continue to learn more about our community through *Sandy Hook Promise* curriculum, and the *Great Kindness Challenge*. We continue to be frugal with our budgets.

Core Values: We continue research and learn about growth mindset to nurture students at all three levels, with PBIS committees using student voice and choice to plan. From the *Leader in Me* book studies to our Assistant Principal/AD team leading *R-Factor* training, we are expanding leadership activities so staff and students grow our culture together. During the second half of the year, building PBIS teams will finalize launch details for programs.

Goals:

Student Achievement

- ✓ *Career Gears* programs including Internships, Cadet Core, Logistics, and Education have been added to our high school to bring a career pathway focus on the 3 E's: enlistment, enrollment, and employment. The system's new elements include certifications at GHS including Lean training, GIS, CompTia, and soldering.
- ✓ New enclave work experiences have expanded with partners CRSI and Tech 2 for special needs students.
- ✓ At GMS, our new STEAM courses are a hit, exposing all student to new learning with foundational STEM curriculums. At both GMS and GES, staff have implemented new Math curriculum for the first time in over 7 years. Leaders

continue work on Outdoor Education trails and land labs, and working with staff and partners to add measurable Future Ready skills to our curriculum k-12.

- ✓ New programs, courses, and focus on early college experiences for students in all areas have helped double the number of CCP hours earned by students this year at GHS, and promote the selection of chosen pathways sooner saving families thousands of dollars along the way.
- ✓ French and German were added to the GHS curriculum without adding new staff positions, expanding our global awareness and career preparations that area industry partners asked for, and our families requested.
- ✓ We continue to expand agreements with area college partners to layer in more CCP opportunities and additional career pathways for the 2018-19 to align with their offerings.
- ✓ Our Naviance Career and College Planning tool was expanded to include middle school students to introduce career planning programs and activities, and several new events have been added by staff at all three levels to promote Career Gears awareness for students and parents.
- ✓ GLS faculty members are learning and laying the groundwork for a true “portrait” of a Future Ready graduate for next year, and studying the use of space, time, and technology tools for students.
- ✓ Our achievement growth at GES is the highest in the 40 district region for the 2nd year in a row.
- ✓ Our Choir programs is consistently bringing home Superior ratings from OMEA competitions and our art students are winning awards, and helping community through the Empty bowls event.
- ✓ Graham staff facilitated a regional literacy summit with partners Clark State, the United Way, Battelle for Kids, and several other area organizations, to promote literacy education.
- ✓ Graham’s new First Lego League Teams at GES and GMS competed in their first robotics competitions thanks to donor support.
- ✓ Over 20 students are currently planning and leading United Service Day 2018.

Community Perception and Support

- ✓ New branding materials created by student intern have helped produce the district’s first Profile, which debuted at the Fair last August.

- ✓ The *TeleGraham* has helped us reach over 6,000 about who we are. An online version is also available now.
- ✓ The Graham Alumni Association was re-launched in the fall and has a new online member link and e-newsletter.
- ✓ We continue to expand our communication efforts to include the use of social media tools such as Twitter and Instagram; a new web site design launched last summer. Since August 2016, the GLS Twitter feed alone has grown from 20 to over 1230.
- ✓ Principals are now sharing weekly e-newsletters at all three levels.
- ✓ Principals have led several Tweetchats for staff and community.
- ✓ Student interns are now helping us communicate daily across social media feeds.
- ✓ The *Read Imagine Soar* Literacy Foundation expended to a countywide program in August, surpassed 450 Families registered since October, and expanding opportunities to connect to families and promote early literacy learning in our communities.
- ✓ We have invited families and partners into the district on many occasions, including Falcons Signing Day, Parent Action Forums, Senior Citizen coffees, St. Paris Lions meetings, a Livestreamed event, and *Adult Education* programs through a partnership with Clark State.
- ✓ Transportation Department received OSBA's highest efficiency rating of rural schools.
- ✓ Our BOE was nominated for the OSBA A-Z award for effectiveness in several categories.
- ✓ Our BOE secured significant new scholarship funding for first generation families attending GLS, launching the Soar Scholars program for 10 8th Graders last fall.
- ✓ Graham's innovations have been documented in several publications, a national case study, and a chapter in a widely distributed collegiate textbook.
- ✓ Lissie Massengill joined the Graham BOE as our first student Board Member.

Attracting and Retaining Quality Teachers and Staff

- ✓ Student Services staff and Nurses have helped train staff, certify employees, and educate students.
- ✓ The central office secretary team has met consistently with the Cabinet to focus our work on customer service, office roles, efficiency goals.
- ✓ Building secretaries have taken part in professional development cross training activities.
- ✓ 8 Administrators are now certified *Humanex Ventures* screeners, helping improve our human resources strategies.
- ✓ Teachers and principals experience Battelle's SOAR program for professional development. At the mid-point of the year, over 14 new staff members have participated.
- ✓ Graham staff led area districts at Crowdstruction 2017 last fall, a powerful one-day professional development showcase for area educators.
- ✓ Over 10 of Graham's staff members have become Google Level 1 certified since August!
- ✓ Staff have helped select professional development vehicles and PBIS platforms for children that reinforce our growth mindset objectives for this year and the next two.

Social and Economic Diversity

- ✓ We continue to deliver professional development on poverty awareness, social and emotional distress signs, and behavior strategies with partners from county agencies.
- ✓ Our GES Backpack program for students in need delivers over 75 meals consistently, bringing families significant savings and healthy foods on the weekends.
- ✓ New student activity programs with partners such as the YMCA and DP&L resulted in swimming opportunities for our students, summer reading and STEAM camps, and Kindergarten Readiness activities hosted at Graham. Urbana U. and the Ohio Soybean council provided free field trips this year.

- ✓ 4th Graders will participate in the Shriner's Circus event for the first time in years.
- ✓ Staff have joined with the Saint Paris Lions to promote their causes as they partner with us. 14 staff members have joined the Lions.
- ✓ The *Ohio Adolescent Health Partnership* network with state agencies and other partners like the YMCA has led to new grant services for community families.
- ✓ Our KidsReadNow grant program supported over 50 students last summer

Financial Stability

- ✓ BOE work sessions have laid the plans for a second attempt at a 1% earned income tax levy issue in May, 2018. Leaders have introduced the need and campaign talking points over the past month.
- ✓ The district has prepped several new financial documents to share related to the Graham 2020 financial goal, our 5 year forecast, and we joined the Open Checkbook tool for even more transparency regarding financial operations.
- ✓ Staff have garnered over \$198,000 in new grants to help support programming in the district since April of 2016.
- ✓ In February we will begin an internal data processing audit as part of a new activity aimed at cost recovery.
- ✓ We are implementing the use of free open education resources planned by staff in core content areas over the next three years as an alternative method to costly textbook replacements.
- ✓ Our Energy savings project has helped realize a \$50,000 annual savings since 2016.
- ✓ Treasurer Judy Geers was nominated for an OSBA Career Achievement award.